

Message Text

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13
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6885

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 5639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: SITUATION OF UCR LEGISLATORS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5554 AND PREVIOUS

1. UCR SOURCES AT HIGHEST LEVEL INDICATED TO EMBOFFS TODAY (AUG 27) THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA, INTERIOR MIN HARGUINDEGUY AND ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF VIOLA HAVE CONFIRMED TO THEM PRIVATELY THAT SOLARI IRIGOYEN AND AMAYA ARE ALIVE AND BEING HELD IN PATAGONIA. SOME UCR SOURCES INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WERE INCREASINLY CONCERNED OVER APPARENT INABILITY OF TOP GOA OFFICIALS NAMED ABOVE TO FORCE AUTHORITIES IN THE SOUTH TO RELEASE OR ALLOW ACCESS TO THE TWO UCR LEGISLATORS.

2. ONE OF SOLARI IRIGOYEN'S CLOSEST FRIENDS IN UCR TOLD EMBOFF TODAY IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION BASED UPON WHAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY WORKING LEVELS IN SECURITY FORCES THAT THE TWO OFFICIALS ARE BEING HELD BY THE NAVY AND THAT THE NAVY IS DRAGGING ITS FEET IN RESPONDING TO DIRECTIVES FROM INTERIOR MINISTER AND EVEN FROM PRESIDENT.

3. GIVEN ABOVE SITUATION, POLCOUNS TODAY CALLED FIREND OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY TO INDICATE CONCERN OF VARIOUS MEMBERS OF US CONGRESS AND PUBLIC OVER FATE OF THE TWO LEGISLATORS. POLCOUNS SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF REPORTS THAT THE TWO WERE ALIVE

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AND UNDER DETENTION WERE TRUE AND IF SO WHY GOA COULD NOT

PRODUCE THE TWO MEN OR IN SOME OTHER WAY EASE THE CONCERNS OF THEIR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. GOA OFFICIAL EMPHATICALLY CONFIRMED THAT THE TWO ARE ALIVE AND WELL..AND IN THE HANDS OF ZCERTAIN AUTHORITIES" IN THE SOUTH. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE CASE "WILL TAKE TIME."

4. FYI. UCR SOURCES TOLD US THAT UCR LEADERS BALBIN AND PERETTE HAVE SENT CABLE TO SEN KENNEDY AND POSSIBLY OTHERS EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THEIR INDICATIONS OF CONERN OVER THE FATE OF SOLARI IRIGOYEN AND AMAYA. END FYI.

5. COMMENT: THAT SOLARI IRIGOYEN AND AMAYA APPARENTLY ARE STILL ALIVE IS CAUSE FOR SATISFACTION. DEGREE TO WHICH THIS CASE POINTS UP LACK OF CONTROL ON PART OF TOP LEVELS OF GOVT, HOWEVER IS DISTURBING. ONE UCR SOURCE COMMENTED THAT IF THE TWO LEGISLATORS CAME OUT OF ORDEAL ALIVE IT WOULD BE DUE TO INTERVENTION OF VIDELA AND VIOLA, BUT HE ADDED THAT EVEN THEIR INTERVENTION MAY BE NO GUARANTEE OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. CHAPLIN

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